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**MINUTES OF THE MADISON RECREATIONAL
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

November 3, 2009

The Madison Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2009 at 5:30 pm at Dublin Park, Madison, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Bill Ward, RAB President.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

The roll call of the board was conducted by the board member Phillip Herron and recorded as follows:

MBA President Mike Kridner	Present
Westco President Bobby Haygood	Absent
Madison Dolphins President Matt Benzek	Present
BAM Commissioner Anthony Dupree	Absent
AYSO Regional Commissioner Lisa Sheffield	Present
MAA President Chris Lewis	Absent
Greenways & Trails Allison Wheeler	Present
Board Member Charles Duffy	Absent
Board Member Cliff Lanham	Absent
Board Member Bill Ward	Present
Board Member Phillip Herron	Present
Recreation Director Mike Cassell	Present
Senior Center Director Judy Meiers	Present
Board of Education Bobby Jackson	Present

Also in attendance was Taylor Edge, the Mayor's executive assistant, and city councilman Steve Haraway, District 2.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

The board welcomed incoming Madison Dolphins president Matt Benzek to its membership.

The Dublin lower restroom (near Malcolm Field) proposal was discussed. Taylor mentioned that we are getting quotes from various sources including Wilson Lumber. John Allen will have a construction estimate soon. Taylor explained that we want to

build under AYSO to take advantage of the 501(c)(3) status of AYSO. Still working on funding from Commissioners Dyer and Strong.

Mike Cassell said that he has been in contact with the city engineering dpmt regarding a parking lot and sidewalk for the new upper soccer fields at Dublin.

Allison Wheeler discussed the wish list for Madison Greenways & Trails. See handout for details. Allison mentioned a paved trail to connect the northern soccer parking lot at Dublin to the bottom of the western end of the ridgeline (which connects into Belle Grove subdivision), possible parking near the east entrance of Palmer for the Bradford Creek greenway, Mill Creek greenway extension north of Brown's Ferry, Bradford Creek greenway to be built in 3 phases, and an Eastview greenway extension to be built as Eastview is extended to the west.

Allison also mentioned that the Mill Creek greenway is coming along, but some ruts need attention.

Bill Ward discussed a critical need by the city of a core aerator to improve field quality at parks throughout the city. Councilman Haraway and Mr. Cassell discussed how this could be accomplished in the budget that is about to be voted on. Phillip Herron made a motion that the RAB recommend to the mayor that a core aerator be purchased. It was seconded by Mike Kridner, and the motion passed.

AYSO discussed their wish list. See handout for details. Some highlights of the wish list include a 6-ft fence around International field, widen International to 70 yds to accommodate multiple smaller short-sided fields, widen McEvoy to 70 yds to accommodate multiple smaller short-sided fields, combine all 3 Lower Lower fields to make a large field (that could still support the 3 smaller fields short-sided), light McEvoy, pipe the drainage ditch at the south end of Middle and Lower, fill it in, then put fields on top, ADA walkways to Lower Lower fields and other fields.

The Senior Center expansion is going before council soon.

Mike Kridner discussed the wish list for MBA. See handout for details. Some items mentioned were converting Field 5 to 2-3 smaller fields, convert Field 7 to a new Babe Ruth field, build smaller fields behind Field 5 or east of Fields 7/8, improve baseball field maintenance program, improve batting cages and bullpen areas, add pavilions / shaded areas to Upper and Lower Quads, add netting around concessions for foul ball protection at Upper Quad, and new scoreboards for baseball fields.

Councilman Haraway suggested considering multi-age baseball fields. Reconfigure fields to support more than one age division on each field to provide maximum flexibility. He also mentioned potential land in Limestone County for additional fields. Several members agreed that the shape of the parcel lend itself well to soccer fields, and that would potentially allow for Palmer to be baseball-only. Mike Kridner emphasized improving our field maintenance practices.

Mike Cassell suggested an adult softball complex in Madison.

Phillip Herron suggested that some residents had expressed a desire for a stocked fishing pond in the city. He also mentioned aluminum dugout benches at the Upper Quad similar to what the Lower Quad has. Councilman Haraway mentioned reconfiguring the Lower Quad dugout gates to be away from home plate rather than closer to home plate, for safety concerns.

Bill Ward discussed the strong need for the city to get away from using the fields year-round. This wears out the fields and leaves no time for MPRD to rejuvenate the fields with appropriate off-season maintenance. AYSO U5/U6 divisions use the Palmer baseball outfields. If more U5/U6-sized fields could be created (or played sideways on larger soccer fields), then the baseball fields would have time to rest and recuperate.

No further business was brought forward. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

The next meeting will be December 1st, 2009 at 5:30pm.